

CALIFORNIA CODES
EDUCATION CODE
SECTION 70100-70110

70100. (a) The Legislature hereby recognizes the growing need for new faculty members in the nursing field at California's colleges and universities. This need will be fueled largely by the large number of current faculty approaching retirement age who will need to be replaced and the expected growth in enrollment demand in California. Further, to increase the supply of nurses in California, there must be an expansion of nursing educator opportunities in public colleges and universities that will produce the necessary faculty to teach in nursing programs in the state.

(b) The Legislature finds that the rising costs of higher **education**, coupled with a shift in available financial aid from scholarships and grants to loans, make loan repayment options an important consideration in a student's decision to pursue a graduate degree in nursing **education** or in a field related to nursing.

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature that the State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for **Education** (SNAPLE) be designed to encourage persons to complete their graduate educations and serve as nursing faculty in a registered nursing program at an accredited California college or university.

(d) As used in this article, "commission" means the Student Aid Commission.

70101. (a) Program participants shall meet all of the following eligibility criteria prior to selection into the program, and shall continue to meet these criteria, as appropriate, during the payment periods:

(1) The participant shall be a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen.

(2) The participant shall be a California resident attending, or having earned a baccalaureate or graduate level degree from, an eligible school or college.

(3) The participant shall be making satisfactory academic progress.

(4) The participant shall have complied with United States Selective Service requirements.

(5) The participant shall not owe a refund on any state or federal educational grant or have delinquent or defaulted student loans.

(b) Any person who has enrolled in, or graduated from, an institution of postsecondary **education**, and who is participating in the loan assumption program set forth in this article, may be eligible to receive a conditional warrant for loan assumption, to be redeemed pursuant to this chapter upon becoming employed as a full-time nursing faculty member at a California college or university or the equivalent of full-time service as a nursing faculty member employed part time at one or more California colleges or universities.

(c) (1) The commission shall award loan assumption agreements to undergraduate students with demonstrated academic ability and

financial need, as determined by the commission pursuant to Article 1.5 (commencing with Section 69503) of Chapter 2, and to graduate students with demonstrated academic ability.

(2) The applicant shall have completed a baccalaureate level or graduate level degree program or be enrolled in an academic program leading to a baccalaureate level or a graduate level degree.

(3) The applicant shall be currently enrolled in, admitted to, or have successfully completed, a program in which he or she will be enrolled on at least a half-time basis each academic term as defined by an eligible institution. The applicant shall agree to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

(4) The applicant shall have been judged by his or her postsecondary institution to have outstanding ability on the basis of criteria that may include, but need not be limited to, any of the following:

(A) Grade point average.

(B) Test scores.

(C) Faculty evaluations.

(D) Interviews.

(E) Other recommendations.

(5) The applicant shall have received, or be approved to receive, a loan under one or more of the following designated loan programs:

(A) The Federal Family **Education** Loan Program (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1071 et seq.).

(B) The Federal Direct Loan Program.

(C) Any loan program approved by the commission.

(6) The applicant shall have agreed to teach nursing on a full-time basis at one or more accredited California colleges or universities for at least three years, or on a part-time basis for the equivalent of three full-time academic years, commencing not more than 12 months after obtaining an academic degree, unless the applicant, within 12 months after obtaining the academic degree, enrolls in an academic degree program leading to a more advanced degree in nursing or a field related to nursing.

(7) An applicant who teaches on less than a full-time basis may participate in the program, but is not eligible for loan repayment until that person teaches for the equivalent of a full-time academic year.

(d) A person participating in the program pursuant to this section shall not receive more than one loan assumption agreement, and shall not be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to Article 3.51 (commencing with Section 78260) of Chapter 2 of Part 48.

70102. The commission shall commence loan assumption payments pursuant to this article upon verification that the applicant has fulfilled all of the following:

(a) The applicant has received a baccalaureate degree or a graduate degree from an accredited, participating institution.

(b) The applicant has provided the equivalent of full-time nursing instruction at one or more regionally accredited California colleges or universities for one academic year or the equivalent.

(c) The applicant has met the requirements of the loan assumption agreement and all other conditions of this article.

70103. The terms of the loan assumptions granted under this article shall be as follows, subject to the specific terms of each loan assumption agreement:

(a) After a program participant has completed one academic year, or the equivalent of full-time teaching nursing studies, at one or more regionally accredited, eligible California colleges or universities, the commission shall assume up to eight thousand three hundred thirty-three dollars (\$8,333) of the outstanding liability of the participant under one or more of the designated loan programs.

(b) After the program participant has completed two consecutive academic years, or the equivalent of full-time teaching, at one or more regionally accredited California colleges or universities, the commission shall assume up to an additional eight thousand three hundred thirty-three dollars (\$8,333) of the outstanding liability of the participant under one or more of the designated loan programs, for a total loan assumption of up to sixteen thousand six hundred sixty-six dollars (\$16,666).

(c) After a program participant has completed three consecutive academic years, or the equivalent of full-time teaching, at one or more regionally accredited California colleges or universities, the commission shall assume up to an additional eight thousand three hundred thirty-four dollars (\$8,334) of the outstanding liability of the participant under one or more of the designated loan programs, for a total loan assumption of up to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

(d) The commission may assume liability for loans received by the program participant to pay for the costs of obtaining the program participant's undergraduate and graduate degrees.

(e) The term of the loan assumption agreement shall be not more than 10 years from the date on which the agreement was executed by the program participant and the commission.

70104. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), if a program participant fails to complete a minimum of three academic years of teaching on a full-time basis or the equivalent on a part-time basis, as required by this article under the terms of the agreement pursuant to paragraph (6) of subdivision (c) of Section 70101, the loan assumption agreement is no longer effective and shall be deemed terminated, and the commission shall not make any further payments. The participant shall resume responsibility for any remaining loan obligations, but shall not be required to repay any loan payments previously made through this program.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), if a program participant becomes unable to complete one of the three years of teaching service on a full-time basis, or the equivalent on a part-time basis, due to a serious illness, pregnancy, or other natural causes, the term of the loan assumption agreement shall be extended for a period not to exceed one academic year. The commission shall make no further payments under the loan assumption agreement until the applicable teaching requirements specified in Section 70103 have been satisfied.

(c) If a natural disaster prevents a program participant from completing one of the required years of teaching service due to the interruption of instruction at the employing accredited California

college or university, the term of the loan assumption agreement shall be extended for the period of time equal to the period from the interruption of instruction at the employing accredited California college or university to the resumption of instruction. The commission shall make no further payments under the loan assumption agreement until the applicable teaching requirements specified in Section 70103 have been satisfied.

70105. (a) The commission shall accept nominations from accredited colleges and universities made pursuant to this article.

(b) The commission shall choose from among those nominations of undergraduate students deemed financially needy with outstanding student loans pursuant to Article 1.5 (commencing with Section 69503), and of graduate students with outstanding student loans, based upon criteria that may include, but are not necessarily limited to, all of the following:

(1) Grades at the undergraduate level in a subject field related to nursing.

(2) Grades in the undergraduate program.

(3) Aptitude for graduate work in the field of nursing.

(4) General aptitude for graduate study.

(5) Critical human resource needs.

(c) The commission may develop additional criteria for the selection of award recipients consistent with the purposes of this article.

70106. (a) The commission shall administer this article, and shall adopt rules and regulations for that purpose. The rules and regulations shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions regarding the period of time for which a warrant shall remain valid and the development of projections for funding purposes. In developing these rules and regulations, the commission shall solicit the advice of representatives from postsecondary **education** institutions, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, and the nursing community.

(b) If a provision is added to this article and the commission deems it necessary to adopt a rule or regulation to implement that section, the commission shall develop and adopt that rule or regulation no later than six months after the operative date of the statute that adds the provision.

70107. The commission shall work to develop a streamlined application process for participation in the program set forth in this article.

70108. The commission shall report annually to the Legislature on this program. The report shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(a) The total number of loan assumption agreements offered, by **education** level and institution.

(b) The number of loan assumption agreements paid out, by **education** level and institution.

(c) The number of loan assumption agreements that are redeemed, by year of service (year one through year three).

(d) The annual and cumulative attrition rate of participants, by **education** level and institution.

70109. Notwithstanding any other law, in any fiscal year, the commission shall award no more than the number of warrants that are authorized by the Governor and the Legislature in the annual Budget Act for that year for the assumption of loans pursuant to this article.

70110. It is the intent of the Legislature that, commencing with the 2006-07 fiscal year, funding necessary for the administration of the student loan assumption program implemented pursuant to this article shall be included within the annual budget of the commission.